NIU

ANTHROPOLOGY AT NORTHERN

Undergraduate and Graduate Programs of Study

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Northern Illinois University

Northern Illinois University is a state-supported, comprehensive university, located 65 miles west of Chicago’s lakefront, in the city of DeKalb (population 35,000). Founded in 1895, NIU now ranks as Illinois’ second-largest state university, with an enrollment of approximately 25,000 students in the Colleges of Business, Education, Engineering and Engineering Technology, Health and Human Sciences, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts. NIU boasts a state-of-the-art computer system, a two million volume library, and all of the cultural, social, and intellectual features characteristic of large, mid-western universities. The university’s proximity to Chicago, Rockford, and the Fox Valley provides additional resources within easy driving distance.

Anthropology at NIU

In 1971, the Department of Anthropology was established as an academic department in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The anthropology program now offers both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science undergraduate degrees, as well as the Master of Arts. The anthropology faculty numbers 14 full-time, three Emeritus and two part-time scholars, each of whom hold a doctorate, as well as a museum director who holds a master's degree. Faculty research and teaching interests span all four sub-disciplines of anthropology (archaeology, linguistic anthropology, physical anthropology and social/cultural anthropology), as well as applied anthropology. The department boasts excellent research programs and research and teaching collections. The department also offers a departmental certificate in Applied Anthropology. Several faculty play central roles in NIU's Cognitive Studies Initiative, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, The Women's Studies Program, and the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies. Ongoing archaeological programs include NIU’s Contract Archaeological Program, Peruvian Archaeology, Archaeology in Kenya, and the Sicilian Elymi Archaeology Project. Some faculty members hold adjunct or research associate positions at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Another integral aspect of anthropology at NIU is our Anthropology Museum, which provides student experience and training in anthropological museology.

The undergraduate anthropology program at NIU has approximately 80 anthropology majors working on either a B.A. or B.S. degree. The graduate program enrolls approximately 50 students working toward the M.A. During the last five years, the department has produced 63 M.A. and 107 BA/BS degrees. In the past decade our graduates have been accepted at the Universities of Michigan, Chicago, Illinois, Kansas, Georgia, Wisconsin, Hawaii, Washington, Indiana, Colorado, Iowa, New Mexico and North Carolina, as well as Vanderbilt, Northwestern, Southern Methodist University, Washington University, City University of New York, Johns Hopkins, State University of New York at Binghamton, and Yale. During this same period, our graduates have been hired at several area community colleges (Kishwaukee, Waubonsee, College of DuPage, William Rainey Harper), several contract archaeology companies and several museums (including the Logan Museum of Anthropology, The Burpee Museum of Natural History, and American Museum of Natural History).
Faculty Research and Teaching Interests

**Archaeology**

**Kurt Rademaker** (Ph.D. University of Maine, 2012) is an interdisciplinary archaeologist interested in human-environment dynamics, hunter-gatherer colonization of South America, adaptations in extreme environments, and foundations of complex societies. In the past decade he has carried out archaeological research primarily in the Peruvian Andes and glacial geology in Peru and Scotland. He also has worked as an archaeologist in the Eastern Woodlands and Great Basin regions of the U.S., Mexico, and Chile.

In Peru, he searches for and investigate hunter-gatherer sites from the Pacific Coast to the high-elevation Andes. This research integrates study of lithic technology, raw material provenance analysis, and geographic information systems (GIS). He has ongoing collaborations with earth science colleagues to produce high-resolution paleoenvironmental records for comparison with cultural sequences. Other current collaborative research with physical anthropologists and paleogeneticists is focused on understanding how humans have adapted to live in high-elevation mountain regions, some of the most challenging environments on Earth.

**Selected Publications**


Physical Anthropology

Daniel L. Gebo (Ph.D., Duke University, 1986) is a biological anthropologist/primatologist with interests in anatomy and evolution. His research focuses on understanding locomotor adaptation in living and fossil primates. He has conducted field work in the western United States, Central and South America, Asia, and Africa. His most recent field projects have been collecting fossil primates in the Paleocene and Eocene of China. Professor Gebo teaches courses in primate anatomy and evolution, human osteology, human evolution, and introductory physical anthropology. He was named a Presidential Research Professor in 1998, a Presidential Teaching Professor in 2008, and a Board of Trustees Professor in 2008.

Selected Publications


**Mitchell Irwin** Ph.D., Stony Brook University, 2006)  
Professor Irwin is a biological anthropologist specializing in primate ecology and behavior. His research focuses on the ecological adaptations of Madagascar’s lemurs, and how habitat disturbance affects the ecology, behavior and health of individuals and populations. He has studied feeding ecology, nutrition, body mass and condition, and parasitology, and is also interested in how Madagascar’s abiotic and biotic environment has influenced the evolution of key lemur traits such as low activity levels, cathemerality and female dominance. Professor Irwin has an ongoing field project in Tsinjoarivo, eastern Madagascar, and co-founded an NGO, “SADABE”, dedicated to promoting research, conservation, and development.

**Selected Recent Publications**


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**Leila M. Porter** (Ph.D., Stony Brook University, 2000) is a biological anthropologist with particular interest in primate behavior and ecology. She has done fieldwork in Madagascar and Bolivia, and her current research focuses on the small-bodied tamarins and callimicos of Bolivia. She has studied dietary strategies, ranging behavior, reproductive strategies and parental care, and is interested how the environment has shaped the evolution of primate social behaviors. In addition, she has conducted primate surveys to determine distribution and densities of primates in Bolivia, and is involved in conservation efforts in this region. She teaches classes introductory classes in physical anthropology, as well as upper level classes in primate behavior, sexuality, ecology and conservation.

**Selected Publications**


**Social and Cultural Anthropology**

**Judy L. Ledgerwood** (Ph.D., Cornell University, 1990) is a cultural anthropologist whose current research interests include gender, diaspora communities, transnational movements of people and ideas, and the construction of cultural identity. Professor Ledgerwood’s dissertation was on changing Khmer conceptions of gender in Khmer refugee communities in the United States. After she completed her degree, she taught and conducted research in Cambodia from 1989-1993. She taught as a visiting professor at Cornell University and the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. From 1993 to 1996, Professor Ledgerwood was a research fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu. Her current research is focused on Cambodian Buddhism and ideas of cultural identity.

**Selected Publications**

**Books:**


*Cambodia Emerges from the Past.* Editor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, 2002.

**Book Chapters:**


Articles:


Emily McKee (Ph.D. University of Michigan, 2011) specializes in environmental and Middle East anthropology. Her dissertation research examined land conflict and socio-environmental movements in the Negev/Naqab region of Israel. As part of a newer focus on cross-border water conservation, she is now researching the strategies and practices of Palestinian, Jordanian, and Israeli water conservationists, as well as the reactions of local residents to water scarcity, resource competition, and conservation campaigns. She also anticipates conducting future ethnographic research in the United States to learn about environmental justice campaigns. Across these field sites, Professor McKee is interested in the drawing and policing of group boundaries; experiences of agriculture, urbanization, and environmental change; and environmental sustainability activism. She has held postdoctoral appointments at Yale University and Brandeis University from 2011-2013 and now works with the Anthropology Department and the Institute for the Environment, Sustainability & Energy at NIU.

Publications
2011 Socio-environmental Sustainability: Lessons from Environmental Justice Activism. Anthropology News 52(3):18

2010 Of Camels and "Ca-mail": Engaging Complex Representations of Bedouins in Activism. Collaborative Anthropologies 3:81-92.


**Andrea K. Molnar** (Ph.D., Australian National University, 1995) is a cultural anthropologist with special interests in Austronesian and Southeast Asian cultures, religion, ritual, Islam, political anthropology, social organization, language, ecological anthropology, development issues, and culture change. She has ongoing research in Indonesia, East Timor, and Southern Thailand. She conducted field research among a number of cultures on Flores island in eastern Indonesia. Her research in East Timor focuses on the Kemak culture from a political anthropology perspective. Molnar’s research in southern Thailand focuses on the political participation and engagement of Malay Muslim women.

**Selected Publications**

**Books:**


**Articles:**


“East Timor: An Introduction to the History, Politics and Culture of Southeast Asia’s Youngest Nation.” A complete introductory course and resources for undergraduates as well as graduate students and professionals for research in East Timor. Web Course, [www.seasite.niu.edu/East_Timor/default.htm](http://www.seasite.niu.edu/East_Timor/default.htm), 2005.


**Mark Schuller** (Ph.D. University of Santa Barbara, California) Originally from the Chicago area, Mark Schuller is Assistant Professor of Anthropology and NGO Leadership Development at Northern Illinois University and affiliate at the Faculté d’Ethnologie, l’Université d’État d’Haïti. Supported by the National Science Foundation and others, Schuller’s research on globalization, NGOs, gender, and disasters in Haiti has been published in twenty book chapters and peer-reviewed articles as well as public media, including a column in *Huffington Post*. He is the author of *Killing with Kindness: Haiti, International Aid, and NGOs* (Rutgers, 2012) and co-editor of four volumes, including *Tectonic Shifts: Haiti Since the Earthquake* (Kumarian Press, 2012). He is co-director / co-producer of documentary *Poto Mitan: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy* (Documentary Educational Resources, 2009). Before obtaining his doctorate, Schuller was a community organizer in the Twin Cities. He serves on several boards and is active in many solidarity efforts.

**Books**


**Documentary**

Kendall M. Thu (Ph.D., University of Iowa, 1992) is a cultural anthropologist with specific interests in applied anthropology, food systems, public and environmental health, the anthropology of sports, North America, and Northern Europe. His research focuses on the relationships between industrialized food systems, the environment, public health, rural social dynamics, and state power and policy. He has been the President of the Culture and Agriculture Section of the American Anthropological Association, Chaired the AAA's Committee on Public Policy, elected to the Executive Board of the Central States Anthropological Society, and is a Fellow in the Society for Applied Anthropology. Dr. Thu is the editor of the journal Culture and Agriculture. He teaches courses in applied anthropology, environmental anthropology, American culture, food and anthropology, medical anthropology, and introductory cultural and general anthropology.

Selected Publications


“Risk factors for animal-related injury among Iowa livestock farmers: A case-control study nested in the Agricultural Health Study (With N. Sprince, H. Park, C. Zwerling, C.


**Museum**

**Jennifer Kirker Priest** (M.A., The Pennsylvania State University, 2006)
**Director, The Anthropology Museum**

Jennifer Kirker-Priest is an anthropologist and museum professional. An anthropological archaeologist by training, her specializations are in ancient Mesoamerica, social power, social organization, construction energetics, and settlement patterns. She has conducted field research in Belize, Guatemala and Mexico.

As a museum professional, she has over 12 years of experience, working in all aspects of museum operations. Her current focus is in museum administration and leadership, with emphasis on innovative strategies for making museums relevant and sustainable. Kirker-Priest teaches in the Museum Studies certificate program.

**Emeritus Faculty**

**Cecil H. Brown** (Ph.D., Tulane, 1971) has research and teaching interests in linguistic anthropology, including ethnobiology anthropology, language and culture, and historical-comparative linguistics. His recent research focuses on lexical acculturation, language universals, and the comparative study of Mayan languages. He has undertaken fieldwork among Huastec (Mayan) speakers of northern Veracruz, Mexico, and among Zapotec speakers in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Fall semester 2001, he was a visiting scientist in the linguistic department at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. Dr. Brown is a Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus at Northern Illinois University and the author of three books and numerous articles and chapters in professional journals and books.

**Winifred Creamer** (Ph.D., Tulane, 1983) is an archaeologist with strong research interest in the development of complex society. She has conducted archaeological field research in North America (New Mexico, Arizona), Central America (Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Belize), and South America (Peru).

**Michael J. Kolb** (Ph.D., University of California - Los Angeles, 1991) is an archaeologist whose research interests include complex societies, monumental architecture, and the archaeology of power and ritual. He has conducted field work in Polynesia, Europe, and Africa. His most recent field work has focused on social
stratification and the political economy of the Maui Kingdom in Hawai‘i, and the rise of complexity in early Iron Age Sicily.

**Mark W. Mehrer** (Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1988) has research interests in North American prehistory, East Asian archaeology, settlement studies, household archaeology, and research methods. His research concentrates mainly on power relations and regional integration during the initial stages of complex social development. He has done field and laboratory research in Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, and Missouri.

**Susan P. Montague** (Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1974) is a cultural anthropologist specializing in Trobriand and American culture. Her research has focused on Trobriand cosmology and the role of cosmology in human life. She has conducted field research in the Trobriand Islands and the United States.

**Ronald Provencher** (Ph.D., University of California-Berkeley, 1968) is a cultural anthropologist specializing in the study of complex societies. His research has focused on cultures of Southeast Asia, particularly in the ethnic Malay communities of Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia. Field research has included studies of social and cultural change in urban and rural Malay communities, Temuan and Malay folk medicine, Malay and Thai personality and social organization, ethnic relations in Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia, and social and political commentary in Malay humor.

**Susan D. Russell** (Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 1983) is a cultural anthropologist with specific interests in economic anthropology and the Philippines. Her research has focused on the relationship between ritual and economy, and on the role of peasant economic institutions in upland and maritime societies. She has conducted research with upland Ibaloi and Kankana-ey peoples in Luzon, street vendors in Manila, and fishermen in both Thailand and the Philippines. She has been a visiting professor at the School of Economics, University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. Professor Russell is currently involved in a range of projects related to conflict resolution and peace-building in the southern Philippines. She teaches courses in Southeast Asian cultures, globalization and corporate cultures, contemporary world problems, economic anthropology, and introductory anthropology.

**Undergraduate Program**

The B.A. and B.S. programs in anthropology at NIU emphasize a broad training in the liberal arts and in all four sub-disciplines of anthropology. The major consists of a minimum of 36 hours in anthropology (ANTH), distributed as indicated below. Please read the degree requirements in the current Undergraduate Catalog for important information on the general education and other requirements for graduation.
Requirements in the major – starting Fall 2015

Requirements within the Department are:

1. ANTH 210 (Exploring Archaeology), ANTH 220 (General Cultural Anthropology); ANTH 230 (Anthropology of Language); ANTH 240 (General Physical Anthropology). These courses are 3 semester hours each for a total of 12 semester hours. The 200-level course in each sub-discipline is a prerequisite for 300- and 400-level courses in that sub-discipline. You should take all four 200-level courses as early in your tenure at NIU as possible.

2. At least one 300- or 400-level course in each of the following categories (12-13 semester hours):
   - Archaeology (10s or 70s)
   - Ethnology / Cultural Anthropology (0s or 20s)
   - Linguistic Anthropology (30s)
   - Physical Anthropology (40s)

3. At least two 300- or 400- courses (6 semester hours total, not 6 from each category) derived from the following categories:
   - History and Theory of Anthropology (50s)
   - Special or Multidisciplinary (60s)

4. At least 6 additional hours in anthropology (preferably at the 300- or 400-level), chosen in consultation with an anthropology adviser.

In addition, each student must also:

1. Take 9 hours of work at the 200 level or above in a single discipline other than anthropology, chosen in consultation with an anthropology adviser. These courses can also be used as a part of general education requirements or requirements for a minor or second major other than anthropology. They cannot be used toward the special requirements of the B.A. or B.S. degree.

2. Meet special requirements for either the B.A. or B.S. degree. The B.A. degree requires completion of the second year of a foreign language (see current Undergraduate Catalog for details). Special requirements for the B.S. degree involves laboratory sciences/mathematical/computational skills courses (see current Undergraduate Catalog for details).

Each student should consult with an anthropology adviser or the department chair on a regular basis to insure proper course selection for degree completion. Students are also urged to consult with College of Liberal Arts and Sciences advisers, located on
the second floor of Zulauf Hall (telephone 753-0114), particularly concerning general education requirements.

**Anthropology Honors**

Majors with at least a 3.30 overall GPA and a minimum 3.50 GPA in anthropology courses are eligible for the Anthropology Honors program. Additional requirements for earning the baccalaureate degree in anthropology with honors include taking 15 semester hours of honors courses in anthropology, taking 6 semester hours of ANTH 499H (Senior Thesis) in lieu of 6 semester hours of electives in anthropology, and presenting an acceptable senior thesis.

**Points to Remember**

Points to remember about your major and undergraduate degree requirements.

1. You must have at least 120 semester hours to graduate, at least 40 of which must be at the 300 level or above. Your last 30 semester hours must be taken at NIU (except with special permission). No more than 50 of your first 120 semester hours can be in anthropology.

2. Anthropology courses cannot be used to fulfill general education requirements for anthropology majors, unless anthropology is your second major.

3. The department strongly recommends that majors planning to go to graduate school take appropriate mathematics courses (e.g., MATH 229 or 210 and 211) plus a statistics course (at least STAT 208 and preferably STAT 301).

**Requirements for a Minor**

A minor will consist of 18 hours of classes. You must take two of the following courses: ANTH 210, ANTH 220, ANTH 230, and ANTH 240. You then need to select four courses (12 hours) in anthropology in consultation with a faculty adviser. These four courses must be at the 200 level or above. Six or more semester hours in the minor must be taken at NIU.
Graduate Program

The M.A. in anthropology at NIU is intended to provide each student with a firm foundation in all four sub-disciplines of anthropology, as well as the opportunity to intensively pursue specific aspects of the field.

How to Apply

Applications for graduate study at NIU may be obtained from the Department of Anthropology or the NIU Graduate School (Adams Hall Room 210, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2864, Telephone (815) 753-0395). Completed applications, along with the materials listed below, should be returned to the Graduate School at the above address.

1. Two letters of recommendation.
2. Official GRE scores
3. Official transcripts from all universities or colleges attended.
4. A detailed statement of professional goals and interests (please be as thorough as possible).
5. Foreign students whose native language is not English must also submit an official copy of their TOEFL scores.

The Department of Anthropology’s deadlines for receipt of a completed application, together with all supporting materials, are: March 1 for the following fall semester and October 1 for the following spring semester. Please note that these are earlier than the Graduate School deadlines to allow sufficient time for admissions decisions to be made. If you miss a department deadline, please call the department chair. Again, these materials are to be sent to the Graduate School, not to the department. Your application cannot be considered until it is complete (including all supporting materials). We recommend that students try to submit materials by February 1st to ensure the file is complete by March 1st.

Applying for Financial Aid

The department has several graduate assistantships (GAs) which carry a full tuition (but not fee) waiver and a stipend based on whether the appointment is for 10 or 20 hours of service per week. To apply for a GA, you must complete an “Application for a Graduate Assistantship.” This form should be sent directly to the Department of Anthropology. The deadline for GA applications is February 15th. GA’s are normally awarded beginning with the fall term. To be considered for a GA, you must be admitted into the M.A. program before March 1. This means that you must get your application in well before the March 1st admission deadline if you wish to be considered for a GA, we recommend having all your materials to the Graduate School by February 1st.

Funding for students with a focus in Southeast Asia is available through the Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Information regarding Foreign Language and Area Studies
Fellowships for the study of Burmese, Thai, Tagalog, Khmer or Indonesian languages and also for the Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship in Southeast Asian Studies can be requested from the center (see page 24 for the address) or downloaded from the Center’s web-site (www.niu.edu/cseas/scholarinfo.htm). Likewise, there is the possibility of support for students available from the Center for Latino & Latin American Studies (see page 25 for their address).

Additionally, all graduate students are encouraged to apply to the Federal Work Study program. Work study assistantships are awarded on the basis of financial need but qualifying does not insure receipt of an award. If you receive work study funding, your assistantship will be in the anthropology department. For information, contact Student Employment Office, Swen Parson Hall 232, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Telephone (815) 753-1394.

Background

Applicants for the M.A. program are expected to have completed at least 15 undergraduate semester hours in anthropology and a course in statistics. However, highly motivated students without an extensive anthropology background are encouraged to apply. Students lacking sufficient anthropology background should consult with the department chair before registering for any classes at NIU.

M.A. Degree Requirements

1. All students must take at least 30 semester hours of graduate work, distributed as outlined below. Students should choose their courses in consultation with their adviser and/or the department chair.
   A. A minimum of one course, taken for graduate credit, from each of the four sub-fields.
      Archaeology
      Cultural-Social Anthropology
      Linguistic Anthropology
      Physical Anthropology
   B. At least 18 additional semester hours of which at least 12 must be in anthropology.

2. Each student also must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of her or his committee, proficiency in either statistics or a foreign language useful to the student’s research or with the committee’s approval gain efficiency in a comparable research skill. Proficiency in statistics can be demonstrated by taking STAT 301, 350 or a higher-level course at NIU. In some cases, equivalent courses from other institutions can fulfill this requirement. Foreign language proficiency can be demonstrated by successful completion of intermediate (normally second year) foreign language. Either requirement can be fulfilled on the basis of work at the
undergraduate level. Note that these courses in foreign language or statistics are normally offered for undergraduate credit only and will not count as a part of the student’s graduate hour requirement at NIU. Questions about fulfillment of these requirements should be directed to the department chair.

3. Each student must choose one of the following options.

A. **Thesis/Examination Option.** Students selecting this option must complete the departmental qualifying examination and write a thesis in his or her major sub-field of anthropology.

   The *qualifying* examination is administered and graded by all the members of that sub-field of anthropology.

   A student writing a thesis must register for at least 3 semester hours of credit in ANTH 699 (Thesis). **The qualifying examination must be passed before formal registration in ANTH 699.**

   A thesis proposal must be approved by the faculty *before registration in ANTH 699.* This proposal can be presented to the faculty at any time during the student’s tenure at NIU. It should be written in close consultation with the student’s adviser.

B. **Non-thesis/Examination Option.** Students selecting this option are required to successfully complete the comprehensive examination in anthropology. This examination is an eight-hour written examination, covering all four sub-fields of anthropology. This exam will be written and graded by the faculty on the department’s Examination Committee. Students in the non-thesis option must also take an additional 6 semester hours of graduate courses in anthropology.

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**Departmental Certificate in Applied Anthropology**

A Master’s Degree in Anthropology with a Departmental Certificate in Applied Anthropology is designed to attract and train graduate students to prepare them for advanced study in anthropology and/or to ready them for work outside academia. The Applied Anthropology Certificate builds on the Department’s existing strengths in four-field Anthropology. If offers students the opportunity to combine applied-oriented course work and fieldwork/internship experiences with a premier education in four-field anthropology. Students completing the necessary requirements in Applied Anthropology, and who have completed their Master’s degree, will receive a Certificate from the Department of Anthropology. Applied Certificate students are also encouraged to explore anthropological linkages with NIU’s Environmental Studies program, as well as the NGO Studies program.
The goal of the Departmental Certificate is to provide students a solid foundation in applied anthropological methods, exposure to the universe of applied anthropological topics, and an understanding of the relationship between theory and practice. Interests in applied anthropology can be combined with the following areas of faculty expertise:

- Conservation
- Cultural Resource Management (Archaeology)
- Development
- Environment Gender
- Food & Agriculture
- Language, Space, and Cognition
- Medical Anthropology & Public Health
- Museology
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Non-Profits
- Public Policy
- Social Services

Course Requirements

Students are required to complete 18 hours via courses approved for the Departmental Certificate in Applied Anthropology, including a core course in Applied Anthropology (ANTH 567). Students are also required to complete fieldwork and/or an internship experience (ANTH 593 or 690).

Courses approved to fulfill the Applied Anthropology Emphasis Area include the following:

- Applied Archaeology (ANTH 518)
- Globalization and Corporate Culture (ANTH 790)
- Cultural Models: The Language of Culture (ANTH 538)
- Economic Anthropology (ANTH 527)
- Environmental Anthropology (ANTH 525)
- Ethics and Research Design in Anthropology (ANTH 550)
- Medical Anthropology (ANTH 565)
- Methods in Ethnography (ANTH 560)
• Methods in Archaeology (ANTH 561)
• Museum Methods (ANTH 562)
• Space in Language and Culture (ANTH 535)
• Museum Practicum (ANTH 665)
• Museum Internship (ANTH 693)

Other courses may be approved for credit by request to Professor Thu.

**Important Notes on the Graduate Program**

1. After passing the comprehensive (four-field) examination, a student may shift to the thesis option and write a thesis. The additional 6 semester hours required for the non-thesis option would be dropped. After passing the qualifying (single-field) examination, a student may shift to the non-thesis option by also passing the comprehensive examination in the other three sub-disciplines of anthropology and taking the additional 6 semester hours.

2. The specific course requirements for the M.A. degree are minimal in order to facilitate flexibility for students in designing their graduate program. It is important that courses be selected carefully by the student and in close collaboration with the student’s advisers and/or department chair. A student planning to take the comprehensive (four-field) examination will require at least two courses in each sub-field of anthropology.

3. Independent study courses can be substituted for required courses only with the approval of the student’s adviser and the department chair.

**Anthropology Courses**

Please consult the current Undergraduate and/or Graduate Catalog for the titles and descriptions of courses currently available to be offered by the Department of Anthropology.

**Related Academic Units and Projects**

**The Anthropology Club**

The Anthropology Club is made up of both graduate and undergraduate students with interests in anthropology. It is intended to foster contact among student anthropologists on campus and between faculty and students. The club sponsors both social and professional functions each year. Professional functions include helping the Museum of Anthropology with projects and sponsorship of the Anthropology Club Colloquium. This series features presentations by NIU and other anthropologists concerning their own
research or other interesting (often new and controversial) topics relevant to anthropology.

The Anthropology Museum

History

The Anthropology Museum at Northern Illinois University was founded in 1964 and is operated as part of the Department of Anthropology. The museum houses over 20,000 objects comprised mostly of ethnographic material with some archaeological material.

The museum specializes in cultures of Southeast Asia, New Guinea, and the Southwest and Plains Native Americans. In addition, the museum holds smaller collections from Africa, modern Greece, Mesoamerica, and South America. The museum is particularly proud of the Native American basket collection, featuring over 200 specimens, as well as the Indonesian textile collection, which contains over 600 pieces. In addition, the museum also houses about 100 different Indonesian shadow puppets, a fine collection of Thai khon masks, and important collections of Hmong and Karen artifacts. The museum has a growing collection of modern Mesoamerican artifacts reflecting the cultural and artistic changes taking place in modern Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico.

After 50 years, the museum is proud to announce a name change in honor of NIU alumnus James Pick and his wife Rosalyn Laudati who have established an endowment for the museum. This generous gift is already transforming the museum into the cultural heart of the *communiversity*, providing dynamic opportunities for people of all ages to marvel at the world’s cultural diversity, revel in the history of human innovation, and become more active citizens in our global community.

Mission Statement

MISSION: The Anthropology Museum fosters imagination, curiosity and an appreciation for cultural diversity by providing dynamic educational experiences that explore the field of anthropology.

VISION: The Anthropology Museum distinguishes itself among university museums as a groundbreaking center for creative engagement where interdisciplinary approaches to the study of humans for creative engagement unite campus and regional communities.

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS)

Through academic endeavor and public outreach, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) at NIU is dedicated to increasing the world’s knowledge and understanding of Southeast Asia's eleven countries: Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
Located 65 miles west of Chicago, NIU is a comprehensive undergraduate and graduate university with approximately 20,000 students. For those pursuing an undergraduate minor or contract major in Southeast Asian studies, or a Southeast Asia-focused graduate certificate, NIU and CSEAS offer:

- Fellowships and scholarship opportunities
- Language training in Burmese, Indonesian, Khmer, Tagalog, Thai, and distance Vietnamese (via UW-Madison)
- Research in a variety of disciplines
- Cultural and networking activities
- Study abroad programs

Established at NIU in 1963, CSEAS grew out of one of the first Peace Corps training programs for Southeast Asia volunteers. Since 1997, it has been a federally funded undergraduate National Resource Center for Southeast Asian studies. Under the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, it is guided by Center staff and an interdisciplinary council of faculty associates.

CSEAS supports community outreach projects and K–16 teacher training on Southeast Asian topics. It also partners with US government departments, international entities and other organizations on academic and youth leadership training programs.

**Center for Latino and Latin American Studies**

The Center for Latino and Latin American Studies (CLLAS) is located near the center of campus, and serves the university’s faculty and students through a variety of research and cultural programs. Approximately thirty faculty associates from various academic disciplines are affiliated with the Center, and numerous graduate and undergraduate students participate in its programs. Faculty associates include senior scholars with international reputations as well as junior colleagues with exciting research agendas. Students enrolled in departments in the humanities, social sciences, arts, and the sciences actively participate in Center programs.

The Center offers a minor in Latino and Latin American Studies, a graduate concentration in Latin American Studies, research grants for affiliated faculty and graduate students, undergraduate scholarships, a speaker series, cultural programming, and outreach activities. The Center moved into a new building in 1999 which it shares with the Latino Resource Center, which provides support services for Latino students. The building’s architecture features a southwestern motif and ample space and facilities for staff and students. The interior includes a computer lab, a smart classroom, library, study areas, administrative offices, and an atrium suitable for art exhibits.
For more information on the center and its programs, contact the Director, Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, [http://www.niu.edu/latinostudies/](http://www.niu.edu/latinostudies/), Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Center Telephone (815) 753-1531.

**Center for the Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality**

The Center for the Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality (CSWGS) offers interdisciplinary academic programs that, in the analysis of human culture, focus on:

- the contributions and status of women and LGBTQ+ people;
- understandings of love and sexuality in relationships;
- the dynamics of sex roles and gender ideals, past and present;
- and the impact of race, ethnicity, age, social class, sexual orientation, ability, and other factors on women's experiences and the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ (LGBTQ+) people.

Telephone (815) 753-1038.

**Physical Anthropology Collection**

NIU’s Department of Anthropology houses an extensive human osteology teaching collection consisting of thousands of specimens documenting the extent of human and geographic variation, as well as a wide range of pathological conditions. The department also boasts a world-class collection of fossil human casts and is the largest university collection of its type in all of the Midwest. This cast collection spans the entire epoch of human evolutionary history from the earliest bipedal hominids (*Australopithecus*, *Sahelanthropus* and many others), up through the emergence of the human lineage. Additionally, we are fortunate to have several mounted skeletons of over 20 different species of primates, ranging from the smallest prosimians to the largest of the apes. Along with primates, NIU’s collection also has skeletal material of several non-primate mammals including bats, carnivores, fish, and others. All of the material in the collection is openly available for undergraduate and graduate student use during class, as well as for independent research.

**Digitizing Tonga: A Linguistic-Socio-Geographical Database**

During academic years 2000-2005, using ArcView GIS, Dr. Giovanni Bennardo prepared a linguistic-socio-geographical database about the Kingdom of Tonga, Polynesia. It contains the map of Tonga, detailed maps of specific archipelagoes and islands, of the capital town, and of specific villages. In one village, each house on the detailed map drawn by Bennardo during his fieldwork has been linked to its photo, to a family tree of its residents, to the other houses where the relatives of the house residents live, and to the
plots cultivated by the house residents and their relatives. Parts of this database are available on the World Wide Web at this address:

http://atlas.lib.niu.edu/tongalayer1.html.

The database is updated during and after each of Bennardo’s field visits. Last year, the “Synchronized Media and Visualization Analysis Tool” (SMVAT) was added to the database. This tool allows digitized clips of interviews conducted in the field (with English and Tongan subtitles) to be displayed and synchronized with related 2-D and 3-D views of the village where they took place. The central visual fields (around 30°) for specific visual takes made by the interviewees are indicated by white semi-transparent cones that extend over the territory for around 150 yards. While running the video clip, at selected points corresponding to a specific linguistic production and a visual take by the interviewee, the cones appear to highlight the extension of the visual take. Thus, a relationship can be established between a visual take and the content of a linguistic expression.

The availability of this database in the field and during the analyses serves a variety of functions. It can be used during the interviews to ask appropriate and relevant questions, to check the information provided, and to stimulate interviewees to explain their descriptions when compared to the digitized data. Similarly, during the analyses of the linguistic and social networks data, the digitized information provide the ethnographic underpinning to their interpretations. The database has already been extensively used in Bennardo’s research.

Cognitive Studies Initiative

In academic year 2000-2001, four assistant professors were hired to start a Cognitive Studies Program at NIU. They are Giovanni Bennardo in Anthropology, Reva Freedman in Computer Science, Betty Birner in English (Linguistics), and Katja Wiemer-Hastings in Psychology. The four members of the group were given the task to prepare and implement a cognitive studies program.

First, they prepared a new class that could provide an entry into the program for undergraduate students. This class, ILAS 261 Language, Mind, and Thought is also listed as a General Education class. At the moment, this class is offered every fall semester and co-taught by two members of the group in rotation. Second, the group prepared a Cognitive Studies minor has now been offered since academic year 2005-2006. In the near future, an interdisciplinary center for Cognitive Studies will be founded within which scholars (within NIU and across campuses world wide) and students will exchange experiences and collaborate on new research projects.

Relations with The Field Museum of Chicago

NIU anthropologist Dan Gebo holds an adjunct/research associate appointments with the Field Museum. This connection facilitates the ability of NIU students to use the
extensive collections housed in the Field Museum’s Anthropology Department, Division of Mammals, and other branches. During the past five years, several students also have held internships or temporary jobs at the Field Museum.